



SINGING DAY

with

Bob Chilcott

composer and director

Gloria and Aesop's Fables



Saturday 7 February 2026

10.00am – 4.30pm

Wilmslow Methodist Church

Kings Close Wilmslow SK9 5AR

Gloria

For SATB and piano, Chilcott's four-movement setting of the Latin Gloria will be welcomed by singers looking for an uplifting and jubilant piece. The driving Gloria in excelsis Deo features syncopated rhythms and an upper-voice semi-chorus part in the Et in terra pax section, which can be taken from the main choir. The tender yet majestic Domine Deus leads into the lyrical Qui tollis peccata mundi, with interweaving melodic lines that express the solemnity of the text. Finally, the dancing Quoniam tu solus sanctus keeps singers on their toes with its upbeat tempo and lively cross-rhythms, culminating in exultant Amens for a suitably exhilarating ending.

Aesop's Fables

Chilcott's masterful musical setting brings each story to life, from the groaning mountain to the dozing tortoise at the end of the race, resulting in a characterful portrayal of these moral tales that is sure to appeal to singers of all ages.

This engaging choral work sets five of Aesop's famous fables:

The Hare and the Tortoise

The Mountain in Labour

The Fox and the Grapes

The North Wind and the Sun

The Goose and the Swan

Composer's note

Aesop, supposedly a slave in Ancient Greece, lived sometime during the sixth century BC, but his wisdom is timeless as is seen in these stories that are still enjoyed by both children and adults all over the world. I have used the translation made in the nineteenth century by the Reverend George Fyler Townsend, and have set only five out of more than six hundred that were supposedly written by Aesop. At the beginning of each story in my setting the title is spoken, as is the moral that comes at the end. The final song in the set, The Goose and the Swan, is appropriately about singing. I have underwritten the song with a wonderful harmonic progression taken from Du bist die Ruh by the king of all songwriters Franz Schubert.

Bob Chilcott Director



Hailed by The Observer as ‘a contemporary hero of British choral music’, Bob Chilcott has enjoyed a lifelong connection with choral music, including spells as a chorister and choral scholar in the choir of King’s College, Cambridge, and as a member of the King’s Singers.

He became a full-time composer and conductor in 1997, and has composed a large catalogue of choral music which is published by Oxford University Press. His most

often performed pieces include *Can you hear me?*, *A Little Jazz Mass*, *Requiem*, and the *St John Passion*.

Bob has directed choirs in more than 30 countries worldwide and conducts many thousands of amateur singers in a continuing series of *Singing Days*. Since 2002 he has been Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers and since 2019 Principal Conductor of Birmingham University Singers.

His music has been widely recorded by leading British choirs and groups including The King’s Singers, King’s College Cambridge, Wells Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, The Sixteen, *Tenebrae*, The BBC Singers, The Bach Choir, *Commotio*, and *Ora*. *Circlesong*, recorded by the Houston Chamber Choir and Treble Choir of Houston, was released by Signum in January 2022, and his second disc with NFM Wroclaw, *Canticles of Light*, in January 2023. November 2023 saw the release of his Christmas Oratorio recorded by The Choir of Merton College Oxford on Delphian, and *Mary, Mother* by St Martin’s Voices on Resonus.

Mackenzie Paget Accompanist



Mackenzie is a Welsh-born concert pianist who enjoys a varied career of accompanying, performing and teaching. He is very excited by his recent appointment as Accompanist with The Barnby Choir and also enjoys accompanying Gatley Choir and the Hallé Choral Academy.

Mackenzie’s students are very busy and active performers too, with many recent winners at the Alderley Edge Festival.

The Malbec Piano Quartet – founded by Mackenzie in

2021 – is a busy ensemble, with a recent performance at the Disley Proms of the brilliant Schumann Piano Quartet in Eb Major.

Cover photo of Bob Chilcott by John Bellars

Timetable

Registration and coffee 9.30

Session 1 10.00 – 11.15

Break 11.15 – 11.30

Session 2 11.30 – 12.30

Lunch 12.30 – 1.30

A light lunch of soup and a roll (£6) is available, or you can visit one of the many supermarkets or cafés in Wilmslow. Cake will also be on sale.

Session 3 1.30 – 2.30

Break 2.30 – 2.45

Session 4 2.45 – 3.45

At 4.00 pm family and friends are invited to join us for an informal performance lasting for approximately 30 minutes.

Map

There is a multi-storey car-park opposite the Church on Water Lane, and further public car-parking behind Hooper's department store (approx. 5 minutes' walk).

